

Foreword

1.

Germany:Portugal – A Review of Aspects and Moments is the title of this work organized by Fernando Ribeiro, which expands on and develops the topics and themes presented in the papers and talks given at the 2nd *Germany-Portugal Colloquium XIX-XXI: Aspects & Moments*, held in Auditorium I at the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas (Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities) of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCSH/NOVA) and presided over by Professor Esteves Pereira, President of the General Assembly of the Portuguese Centre for Global History (CHAM – FCSH/NOVA, UAc). The session was opened by the dean of the faculty, Professor João Costa, who welcomed the speakers, guests, respective academic entities and the conference participants. We would also like to note the esteemed presence of the vice director of the Portuguese Centre for Global History, Professor João Luís Lisboa, and Professor João Figueirôa-Rêgo, coordinator of the Political and Institutional Configurations research group, of which Professor Fernando Ribeiro, organizer of this second edition of the Colloquium, is a member.

This volume follows on from the previous work published by Húmus Publishers entitled *Germany:Portugal – A Review of Aspects*, also organized by Fernando Ribeiro, which expanded on the topics and themes presented at the 1st *National Colloquium Germany-Portugal XIX-XXI: Aspects*, which took place on 11 December 2013 in Auditorium I at FCSH/NOVA. This event was hosted by the vice-rector of Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Professor José Esteves Pereira, the deputy dean of FCSH/NOVA, Professor João Costa, representing respectively the rector, Professor António Bensabat Rendas, and the Dean, Professor João Sáàgua, and the director of the Centre for the History of Culture, Professor João Luís Lisboa, the vice-director, Professor Luís Ventura Bernardo, and Professor Júlio Silva, coordinator of the Political and International Studies research group, to which Professor Fernando Ribeiro, organizer of the first edition of the Colloquium, belonged.

2.

The Colloquium *Germany-Portugal XIX-XXI: Aspects* is a place for reflection on the role these two countries, their nations and their respective cultures, have played in the search for a shared core objective: a Europe for the 21st century.

This Colloquium also aims to present the results of the objectives of the emergent bilateral strategies that have been cultivated by these two countries according to the benefits to be accrued and their constant commitment to the construction of a Europe in terms of:

- peace,
- values,
- international consolidation through cooperation.

While focusing on presenting data of an economic, political and historical-diplomatic nature, the Colloquium also seeks to focus on other cultural aspects which clearly illustrate the constancy and perseverance that have surrounded Germany's judicious stance towards Portugal.

3.

By calling upon speakers and participants both belonging to and external to the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, this dual feat – organization of the Colloquium and publication of this volume of essays – seeks to preserve a record of their lectures, talks and essays in both book and audiovisual format. Since we are dealing with original contributions aimed at diverse audiences, also in terms of time, we wish to bequeath a work that will serve for further study and academic or other research and become a reference work registered with the FCSH/NOVA archive and thus publicly available.

4.

Easter 2011: ideas for the Colloquium and the Book were born, born out of the humble need to build a lively space for reflection on the «encounters» between Germany and Portugal in light of a practical comprehension of the understanding between these two nations and cultures both synchronically and diachronically.

The ideas were later presented to distinguished colleagues, such as Professor Nuno Severiano Teixeira, who accepted them and then generously agreed to address invitations to researchers of the Portuguese Institute of

International Relations, of which he is director. These would later be on the panel of the 1st Colloquium.

In addition, we presented the idea to sympathetic friends connected to German economic and diplomatic circles in Portugal whose generous willingness to help leads us with great pleasure to publicly recognize the valuable contribution of Doctor Hans Jürgen Müller, CFO of ATEC.

Both the director of the Centre for the History of Culture, Professor João Luís Lisboa, and the vice-rector of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa at the time, Professor José Esteves Pereira, were, in this order, the most direct institutional supporters of this additional desire to do something for those young people and students who come to FCSH/NOVA to study and learn about Portugal, Europe and Germany.

5.

The occasion demands we mention that CHC, CHAM, FCSH/NOVA and the whole audience benefitted from the generosity of the then president of the Academy of Sciences, Professor Adriano Moreira, who did us the honour of accepting our invitation to deliver the opening lecture of the 1st Colloquium.

The distinguished economist, Professor José Manuel Félix Ribeiro, an impressive figure in liberal economic sciences, opened the second part of the 1st Colloquium.

We must also mention such notable colleagues as Professor Ana Mónica Fonseca, Professor Patricia Daehnhardt, Professor José Lúcio and Bruno Marques for knowing how to provide such an enjoyable and enlightening experience to the many members of the audience, who also appreciated the talk given by Professor Fernando Ribeiro.

It was also the organizers' honour and privilege to welcome the presence and the important collaboration of Doctor Robert Weber – the Federal Republic of Germany's top diplomatic representative at the time in Lisbon – who agreed to chair a round-table discussion and close the 1st Colloquium.

6.

The occasion further demands we mention that the Portuguese Centre for Global History (CHAM) continued to be the host for the 2nd edition of the Colloquium, now entitled *Germany-Portugal XIX-XXI: Aspects & Moments*.

The audience attending this 2nd edition enjoyed the benefits of the opening talk given by Professor Eduardo Lourenço, a senior leading figure who is much beloved by and dear to Portuguese universities in general, the Universidade Nova de Lisboa in particular and to Portuguese culture.

On 12 December 2014, there was a final round-table discussion during which Dr. Mário Soares – paying us the honour of reading his paper – recalled the solidarity shown by the SPD in the 1960s and 1970s as well as by various personalities from Democratic Socialism and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Germany's current top diplomatic representative in Portugal, His Excellency the German Ambassador, Doctor Ulrich Brandenburg, made a point of being present from the first moment of the Colloquium and very kindly gave a talk in which he likened the value of Portugal, undergoing a crisis, to that of Germany in the ductile moment experienced by his country after the fall of the Berlin Wall, thus making a historic mark on those present.

In addition, we would like to mention the original and exclusive papers delivered by José Manuel Martins Carneiro, museologist, Paulo Ferreira de Castro, musicologist, Teresa Balté, university lecturer, poetess and artist, Paulo Henriques, museologist, Eduardo Sousa Ferreira, professor of Economics, and Fernando Ribeiro, professor of German Literature and Culture.

7.

We would also like to publicly thank:

A) Dr^a Maria Luíza Rolim of Colares Editora, for her helpful and wise advice and, given her understanding of the aim of this academic-scientific initiative, for having alerted us to the possibility these brief notes might have were we to apply to receive some valuable support from the Foundation for Science and Technology;

b) Dr^a Teresa Fragata Correia from the Education and Scholarship Services of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for her attentive and pertinent advice on the publishing of this volume.

8.

Finally, we would like to gratefully acknowledge the dedication and technical support given by Professor Francisco Rui Cádima, director of the Media Lab at FCSH/NOVA, for the audiovisual editing, and the endeavours undertaken by Professor João Lisboa and Professor Luís Ventura Bernardo on behalf of the book which received such a positive response from the editorial board of our publisher, Húmus.

Christmas, 2014
Fernando Ribeiro